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What object there can have been in publishing such a worthless production as this (10,000 copies were distributed), it is hard to imagine. We notice it chiefly to call attention to the folly and uselessness of issuing local lists that are based on few and imperfect observations. Every beginner in ornithology seems beset by a desire to print a list of the birds of his own neighborhood, and thinks himself quite competent for the task. The fact is there are few things that require such long training and exceptional talents to make the results of real value. Even then a list should not be published unless based on years of constant field-work or unless the region treated is practically unknown ground. It is, nevertheless, an excellent thing for the beginner to prepare his local list,—but for his own use. It gives him some valuable practice; its incompleteness may stimulate him to further discoveries; and it will doubtless afford him that most invaluable lesson,—how easy it is to make mistakes, and many of them.—C. F. B.

**The Quadrate Bone in Birds.\***—A paper by Miss Mary L. Walker treats of the quadrate bone of birds, describing one or more specimens from typical examples of each of the various groups proposed by Huxley. The quadrate is shown to have a characteristic shape in the different species examined, and from hastily running over a considerable number of crania it is apparent that the quadrate possesses much taxonomic importance. Its value, however, will doubtless prove to be comparative rather than positive, and will be found in the fact that it furnishes an additional point in summing up the evidence in any given case. Some of the facts brought forward in the paper show very clearly that, like most characters of birds, the form of the quadrate will need to be checked by others, and that, as has so often been said, it is not by any one character, but by the resultant of many, that birds must be classified. None of the *Machrochires* were examined by Miss Walker, and it may be said that the quadrate of Hummingbirds, Swifts, and Goatsuckers are built on the same general plan, the resemblance between Swifts and Goatsuckers in this particular being especially noticeable. The paper is confessedly “a short, and indeed, preliminary study,” and it is to be hoped that we may soon see it extended, for we cannot have too many aids in the classification of birds, and each additional taxonomic character is to be welcomed.—F. A. L.

**Minor Ornithological Publications.**—There has not been much of ornithological interest in the literary monthlies since they were last noticed in this department. *Harper's Monthly* since Vol. LXXI (see *Auk*, II, 372) has contained nothing in Vols. LXXII-LXXIX worth noticing here. *Scribner's Magazine* has so far (Vol. I-VI) contained no ornithological matter. *The Century Magazine* was last noticed (Vol. XXVI, 1883) in the

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\*Studies from the Museum of Zoölogy in University College, Dundee. Edited by D'Arcy W. Thompson, Professor. I. On the Form of the Quadrate Bone in Birds. By Mary L. Walker.

'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' Vol. VIII, 1883, p. 238; since then it has contained, in Vols. XXVII-XXXIX (Nov., 1883-April, 1890) the following (Nos. 1636-1644).

1636. *Bird Enemies*. By John Burroughs. '*The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine*,' Vol. XXXI, No. 2, Dec., 1885, pp. 270-274.

1637. *Feathered Forms of Other Days*. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Ibid.*, No. 3, Jan., 1886, pp. 352-365.—Illustrated with figures of *Camptolaimus labradorius*, *Plautus impennis*, and several fossil birds.

1638. *Birds' Eggs*. By John Burroughs. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXII, No. 2, June, 1886, pp. 273-278.

1639. *Sea Birds at the Farne Islands*. By Bryan Hook. *Ibid.*, No. 4, Aug., 1886, pp. 557-564.—A popular sketch, illustrated.

1640. *Notes from the Prairie*. By John Burroughs. *Ibid.*, No. 5, Sept. 1886, pp. 784-790.—Contains a few notes on the Sand-hill Crane.

1641. *The Sportsman's Music*. By W. J. Henderson. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, July, 1887, pp. 413-417.—With cuts, and musical notation of songs, of several birds.

1642. *Bird Music*. By Simeon Pease Cheney. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXV, No. 6, April, 1888, pp. 845-848 (*Sialia sialis* and *Merula migratoria*); *ibid.*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1, May, 1888, pp. 147-149 (Partridge and Owls); *ibid.*, No. 2, June, 1888, pp. 254-256 (*Icterus galbula*, *Turdus mustelinus*, *T. a. pallasii*, *T. fuscescens*); *ibid.*, No. 3, July, 1888, pp. 416-417 (*Melospiza fasciata*, *Spizella pusilla*); *ibid.*, No. 5, Sept., 1888, pp. 718-719 (*Icteria virens*, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, *Antrastomus vociferus*); *ibid.*, Vol. XXXVII, No. 1, Nov., 1888, p. 97 (*Urinator imber*); *ibid.*, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2, June, 1889, pp. 234-235 (*Sturnella magna*, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, *Piranga erythromelas*, *Spinus tristis*).—With musical notation of songs.

1643. *Doves*. By E. S. Starr. *Ibid.*, pp. 698-703.—Contains some account of a nesting of *Ectopistes migratorius*.

1644. *Bird Music: Songs of the Western Meadow-Lark*. By Charles W. Allen. *Ibid.*, No. 6, Oct., 1888, pp. 908-911.—With musical notation.

The *Atlantic Monthly*, last noticed (Vol. LIII, No. 318, April, 1884) in Vol. II, p. 373, of 'The Auk', has since contained in Vols. LIII-LXIV (1884-1889) the following (Nos. 1645-1669).

1645. *The Bird of Solitude*. By Olive Thorne Miller. '*The Atlantic Monthly*,' Vol. LIII, No. 320, June, 1884, pp. 753-758.—A popular account of the characteristics of *Turdus mustelinus* and *T. a. pallasii*. Reprinted in 'Bird Ways,' Boston, 1885, pp. 13-29.

1646. *Bird Gazing in the White Mountains*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, Vol. LIV, No. 321, July, 1884, pp. 51-59.—Reprinted in 'Birds in the Bush,' Boston, 1885, pp. 75-102, entitled 'In the White Mountains'.

1647. *In the Haunts of the Mockingbird*. By Maurice Thompson. *Ibid.*, No. 325, Nov., 1884, pp. 620-627.—Reprinted in 'By Ways and Bird Notes,' New York, 1885, pp. 5-22.

1648. *Winter Birds about Boston*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, Vol.,

LV, No. 328, Feb., 1885, pp. 160-168. — Reprinted in 'Birds in the Bush,' Boston, 1885, pp. 185-210.

1649. *A Ruffian in Feathers*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 330, April, 1885, pp. 490-495. — *Passer domesticus*. Reprinted in 'Bird Ways,' Boston, 1885, pp. 151-159.

1650. *A Bird Lover's April*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, No. 331, May, 1885, pp. 692-701. — Reprinted in 'Birds in the Bush,' Boston, 1885, pp. 211-241.

1651. *A Bit of Bird Life*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LVI, No. 333, July, 1885, pp. 70-74. — *Agelaius phœniceus*.

1652. "Upon the Tree Top." By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 336, Oct., 1885, pp. 533-540. — Habits of *Icterus galbula*.

1653. *A Tricky Spirit*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 337, Nov., 1885, pp. 676-685. — *Mimus polyglottos* in captivity.

1654. *The Genesis of Bird Song*. By Maurice Thompson. *Ibid.* Vol. LVII, No. 343, May, 1886, pp. 613-619. — A popular sketch of the palæontological history and the vocal apparatus of birds.

1655. *Confessions of a Bird's-Nest Hunter*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, Vol. LVIII, No. 347, Sept., 1886, pp. 336-345. — Reprinted in 'A Rambler's Lease,' Boston, 1889, pp. 70-98.

1656. *A Bird of Affairs*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LIX, No. 352, Feb., 1887, pp. 178-183. — *Cyanocitta cristata* in captivity.

1657. *The Mockingbird's Nest*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 354, April, 1887, pp. 514-524.

1658. *Flutterbudget*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 355, May, 1887, pp. 678-682. — *Harporhynchus rufus* in captivity.

1659. *A Woodland Intimate*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, Vol. XL, No. 359, Sept., 1887, pp. 349-355. — Remarkable tameness in *Vireo solitarius*. Reprinted in 'A Rambler's Lease,' Boston, 1889, pp. 22-44.

1660. *The "Wise Bluebird"*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 360, Oct., 1887, pp. 455-460.

1661. *The Blue Jay*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LXI, No. 364, Feb., 1888, pp. 266-270. — Habits in captivity.

1662. *Virginia's Wooing*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 365, March, 1888, pp. 362-366. — *Cardinalis cardinalis* in captivity.

1663. *A Discord in Feathers*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 367, May, 1888, pp. 701-705.

1664. *A Green Mountain Corn-field*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, Vol. LXII, No. 369, July, 1888, pp. 47-51. — Various birds mentioned. Reprinted in 'A Rambler's Lease,' Boston, 1889, pp. 99-113.

1665. *Home Life of the Redstart*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 371, Sept., 1888, pp. 353-358.

1666. *A November Chronicle*. By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, No. 373, Nov., 1888, pp. 589-594. — Mention of various species observed in eastern Massachusetts. Reprinted in 'A Rambler's Lease,' Boston, 1889, pp. 121-139.

1667. *The Solitaire*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LXIII, No. 375, Jan., 1889, pp. 105-110. — *Myadestes obscurus* in confinement.

1668. *The "Black-capped" Baltimore.* By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LXIV, No. 382, Aug., 1889, pp. 265-270.—*Icterus galbula* in captivity.

1669. *December Out-of-doors.* By Bradford Torrey. *Ibid.*, No. 386, Dec., 1889, pp. 752-761.—Various birds noted in eastern Massachusetts in December, 1888.

*Lippincott's Magazine* during the years 1879-1889 (Vols. XXIII-XLIV) yields only the following (Nos. 1670, 1671).

1670. *Beach Birds.* By Nathan Clifford Brown. '*Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*,' Vol. XXIII, May, 1879, pp. 620-626.—An illustrated sketch of various species found on the beaches [near Scarborough, Maine?].

1671. *Notes on the Intelligence of Birds.* By Mary Treat. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIV, Sept., 1879, pp. 359-364. — On habits of various species in New Jersey.

*The Popular Science Monthly*, Vols. XIV-XXXVI (Nov., 1878-April, 1890), besides various articles copied from other periodicals, contains the following (Nos. 1672-1677).

1672. *Notes on a Few of Our Birds.* By Harry Merrill. '*The Popular Science Monthly*,' Vol. XVII, No. 3, July, 1880, pp. 386-392.—Interesting notes, especially on breeding habits, of various birds in Maine.

1673. *Land Birds in Mid-ocean.* By George W. Grim. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, Dec., 1883, pp. 207-209.—A few interesting facts and suggestions.

1674. *The Social Life of Arctic Birds.* By Dr. Alfred E. Brehm. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, Dec., 1885, pp. 209-216.—A popular sketch of the habits of several species.

1675. *Bird Migration.* By Barton W. Evermann. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXX, No. 6, April, 1887, pp. 803-810.—A popular review of the subject and its study in America.

1676. *The Home of the Great Auk.* By Frederic A. Lucas. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 4, Aug., 1888, pp. 456-464.—An account of the writer's visit to Funk Island.

1677. *Birds with Teeth.* By Otto Meyer, Ph. D. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 3, Jan., 1890, pp. 382-389.—A short illustrated sketch of several fossil species.—C. F. B.

**Publications Received.** — Allen, J. A. On the Maximilian Types of South American birds in the American Museum of Natural History. (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., II, No. 3, pp. 209-276, Dec. 1889.)

Anthony, A. W. New Birds from Lower California, Mexico. (Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., 2d Ser., II, pp. 73-82, Nov. 1889.)

Berlepsch, Hans von. Systematische Verzeichniss der von Herrn Gustav Garlepp in Brasilien und Nord Peru im Gebiete des oberen Amazonas gesammelten Vogelbälge. (Journ. f. Orn. 1889, pp. 289-321, pl. iii.)